

gladesh, Burma, China, Indo-China (Thailand), Malaysia to Malesian Islands (Java).

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36. SOME NOTEWORTHY PLANTS FROM KOLABA DISTRICT (MAHARASHTRA STATE)

During floristic studies of Kolaba district (Maharashtra State) 5 plants namely *Ficus callosa* Willd. (Moraceae), *Flemingia gracilis* (Mukherjee) Ali (Fabaceae), *Gymnema khandalense* Sant. (Asclepiadaceae), *Hygrorhiza aristata* (Retz.) Nees ex W. & A. (Poaceae) & *Oldenlandia biflora* L. (Rubiaceae) are found to be noteworthy and hence it was thought desirable to put these plants in record as it will help in their location. All the specimens cited are deposited in the herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Western Circle, Pune (BSI) under the senior author's name.

Ficus callosa Willd. Mem. Acad. Roy. Sci. Hist. (Berlin) 102. 1798; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 8: 1364. 1928. 'Ghurud—Marathi'.

Cooke (1901-1908) has not reported this species while Gamble (l.c.) states that it is not uncommon in W. Ghats. A solitary tree was observed in the district, which, however, was marked for cutting by the Maharashtra State Forest Department. Hence the present record from Kolaba district becomes the northernmost limit of its occurrence in Western Ghats.

A huge tree with giant buttressed roots.

Fl. & Fr.: February-March.

Locality: Masadi Forest (Roha) 156470.

Flemingia gracilis (Mukherjee) Ali in Biologia 12: 78. 1966. *Moghania gracilis* Mukherjee in Bull. bot. Soc. Bengal 6(1): 22-24. 1953; Reddi in Bull. bot. Surv. India 11: 145. 1969.

Mukerjee (l.c.) described this species from Khandala in Pune district based on Santapau's collections. Thereafter it was collected by Reddi (l.c.) from the same district and therefore its present record from the adjoining Kolaba district is very interesting and worth putting on record.

An extremely rare plant in Kolaba district as it was observed only in one locality that too on a steep cut slope of the rock.

Fl. & Fr.: September-October.

Locality: Porcupine point, Matheran 147387.

Gymnema khandalense Sant. in Kew Bull. 1948. 486. January 1949 et Rec. bot. Surv. India 16(1): 52. ed. 3. 1967.

It is described as a new species from Khandala by Santapau (l.c.) and nobody has reported it thereafter. Hence its present record from Kolaba district is the second report of its occurrence and thus establishes itself as a good species confined to a limited area. However, because of biotic interference in that particular locality its very existence is threatened and thus it is very much endangered.

A climber with straight or slightly curved follicles. This plant was collected only once and that too in fruit. However, flowering specimens collected by Santapau are represented in Blatter Herbarium, Bombay.

Fr.: March 1979.

Locality: Masadi Forest, Roha 156472.

Hygrorhiza aristata (Retz.) Nees ex W. & A. in Edinb. New Phil. J. 15: 380. 1833; Cooke in Fl. Pres. Bombay 2: 1041. 1908. *Pharus aristata* Retz. Obs. 5: 23. 1789.

Cooke (l.c.) has recorded this plant from Chikli (Gujarat) only and Gamble (1915-36) records from both the coasts down south. The present report from the Kolaba district in Maharashtra State thus bridges the gap in its distribution.

An attractive aquatic grass with purplish, handsome swollen leaf-sheaths and greenish-yellow spikelets; worth introducing in gardens in shallow ponds.

Fl. & Fr.: December-March.

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WESTERN CIRCLE, PUNE,
May 7, 1981.

Locality: Gavalwadi pond, Karjat 154503.
Oldenlandia biflora L. Sp. Pl. 119. 1753; Hooker in Fl. Brit. India 3: 70. 1897.

Cooke (1901-08) has not recorded this species from Maharashtra State. Gamble (l.c.) also notes its infrequent occurrence on the W. coast and it was also represented from Lakshadweep (Laccadives) in BSI. Therefore, its present record from Maharashtra State is the first one from the State.

A branched succulent herb with white flowers. A rare plant growing on moist-moss covered rocks near sea-shores.

Fl. & Fr.: September-October.

Locality: Murud 147855.

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COOKE, T. (1901-1908): The Flora of the Presidency of Bombay, Vol. 1 & 2, London.
GAMBLE, J. S. & FISCHER, G. E. C. (1915-36):

Flora of the Presidency of Madras. Parts 1-11. London.

37. THE GENUS *DESCHAMPSIA* IN N. W. HIMALAYA

Deschampsia belongs to the tribe Aveneae of Poaceae. It has about 60 species distributed mostly in temperate regions. In India the genus is represented by two species *D. caespitosa* and *D. koelerioides*. Both occur in the North Western Himalayan region at an altitude of about 4000 m. The plants have golden brown or purplish green shining spikelets and may prove worthy of introduction in alpine gardens. A third species *D. flexuosa* occurs in Nepal and may be expected in India. [Santapau & Henry (Dictionary 53, 1973) while dealing with the genus mention the occurrence of three species in India].

Type species — *Deschampsia caespitosa* (L.) P. Beauv. = *Aira caespitosa* L.

Deschampsia P. Beauv., Ess. Agrost. 91. t. 18. f. 3. 1812; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 7: 273. 1897; Bor Grasses Burm. Cey. Ind. & Pak. 435. 1960.

Perennials. *Culms* ascending, glabrous; sheaths glabrous, striate. *Leaves* mostly basal, glabrous, acute; ligule membranous. *Inflorescence* contracted or spreading panicle, shining. *Spikelets* usually 2-flowered; rachilla produced, pilose, breaking up above the glumes. *Glumes* hyaline, equal or sub-equal, longer than the lemmas. *Lemmas* broad, toothed or lobed, awned on the back; callus hairy. *Paleas* shorter than the lemma, 4-toothed, Anthers 3. Styles 2. Lodicules 2.